

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. Claims 7-8 and 14-15 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior art is Leg Bag Valve by Lakeshore Assistive Technology of <http://www.lakeshoretechonline.com> (hereinafter Lakeshore); U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0173758 to Whiting, and U.S. Patent Nos. 6,520,334 to Hoover, 4,631,061 to Martin, 5,555,490 to Carroll, and 3,357,430 to Rosenberg. Lakeshore teaches an apparatus for draining a urine collection bag worn by a person, an electrically operated drain valve coupled to a drain tube of the bag, a control device for remotely controlling the drain valve, a drain valve actuation control, a housing for the control device, a battery for providing electrical power to operate the drain valve, and the control device being connected to the drain valve with a flexible cable. Lakeshore does not teach the control device being adapted to be worn by a person, the housing including a clip for securing the housing to a belt or waistband, the housing resembling a pager, a simulated display window, the battery being disposed within the housing, a hook and loop closure strap configured to secure the drain valve to the person's ankle, or the flexible cable being a flat wire cable. As the Lakeshore device is designed to attach to a powered wheelchair and receive power from the main battery of the wheelchair, it teaches away from wearing the device or having the battery disposed within the housing. Whiting teaches an apparatus for discreetly draining a urine collection bag having an electrically operated drain valve, a control device for remotely controlling the drain valve including a drain valve actuation control, a housing for the

control device for securing the apparatus to a person, and a battery for providing electrical power to operate the drain valve. Whiting does not teach a clip, a simulated display window, a hook and loop closure strap for securing the apparatus to the person's ankle, or having the control device connected to the drain valve with a flexible flat wire cable. As the Whiting device is designed for wireless connection, it teaches away from a flexible wire cable connection. Hoover teaches a storage apparatus which is expressly described as resembling a pager and having a housing, a clip, a battery, and a simulated display window, but does not teach draining a urine collection bag, an electrically operated drain valve, a hook and loop closure, attachment to the ankle, or a flexible wire cable. Martin teaches a urine collection device with its controls connected by a cable to a backpack, as well as a valve and a battery. Martin does not teach an electrically operated drain valve coupled to the drain tube of a urine collection bag, resemblance to a pager, a simulated display window, a hook and loop closure, attachment to the ankle, or a flexible flat wire cable. Carroll teaches the use of flexible flat wire cable to connect wearable electronic components, but does not teach the other limitations. Rosenberg teaches a urine collection bag with a hook and loop closure strap configured to secure the bag to a person's ankle, but does not teach the other limitations. There is insufficient motivation to combine the various references.

2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PAULA L. CRAIG whose telephone number is (571)272-5964. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tatyana Zalukaeva can be reached on (571) 272-1115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Paula L Craig
Examiner
Art Unit 3761

/P. L. C./

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Application/Control Number: 10/771,557

Page 5

Art Unit: 3761

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3761